Protection of Indians and their properties in Nepal

2643. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after anti Hrithik Roshan riots, which rocked the Nepalese capital, two schools owned by Indians were attacked by the activists of Akhil Nepal Rashtriya Vidyarthi Sangathan in the month of May, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken to protect the Indian nationals and their properties and to curb the anti-Indian violent activities in the Nepalese territory, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes sir. In the last week of December 2000, demonstrations were held in Kathmandu and other places in Nepal protesting against a fabricated rumour concerning anti-Nepal remarks purported to have been made by Indian film star Hrithik Roshan. The rumour was without any foundation and was also denied by Shri Roshan. The demonstrations took on an anti-India colour and resulted in damage to the property belonging to some Indian Joint Venture companies and to people of Indian origin in Nepal. Two reputed Indian educational institutions in Kathmandu viz. Rupy's International School and the Elite Co-ed School were also attacked by organised armed gangs.

(c) The matter was immediately taken up with His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMGN) both through the Royal Nepalese Ambassador in New Delhi and the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu seeking urgent attention of HMGN to provide necessary security and protection to Indian nationals in Nepal and their property. We were assured that such incidents would not recur in future.

Handing over of Mr. Slobodan Milosevic

2644. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have protested against the handing over of Mr. Slobodan Milosevic for trail at The Hague since this has set an ominous and dangerous procedure of a head of a State being tried on foreign soil, by a foreign court:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The decision to extradite Mr. Milosevic was taken by a foreign government. The Government of India was not involved in the interaction between the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia (ICTY) at The Hague.

Impact of National Missile Defence System

2645. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's assessment of the impact on world peace of the US announcement of National Missile Defence System in the counter of identification of 'rogue countries' like Iraq and North Korea and its obvious rivalry with the Nuclear Power of China;

(b) whether Government see in this move an attempt to start "the Star-Wars" of the cold war era; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken by Government in the light of these moves for establishing world peace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) The US plans on a "new strategic framework' comprising four elements, namely, non-proliferation, counter proliferation, missile defence, and a reduction in US strategic nuclear forces, seek to transform the strategic parameters on which the Cold War security architecture was build. Government, while welcoming the announcement to reduce US nuclear forces, conveyed appreciation for the US intention to continue close consultations with its allies, friends and other interested countries. It is India's expectation that the US would continue to be guided by the spirit of dialogue, consultation and cooperation in this process. India has also conveyed its expectation to the US that it would pursue its plans in a manner that enhances regional and international stability and security.

Indo-China discussions to resolve border disputes

2646. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts from India and China held their ninth round of discussion to clarify key portion of Sino-Indian Border;

(b) whether the differences on the middle sector (Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh) have been sorted out in disucssions;

(c) when and where the next round of discussion is scheduled to be held; and

(d) the other details in this regard?